

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging from page 30, line 16 through page 31, line 5, with the following paragraph:

As described above, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is characterized by irreversible airflow limitation and has a pathologic characteristic different from asthma, which is a reversible airflow limitation. Furthermore, in international asthma therapy guideline, “Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma (NHLBI, 2002)”, inhalation steroids for drug treatment against bronchial asthma are recommended as a first choice and its excellent effectiveness is confirmed. However, in the similar global guideline, Global initiative for chronic obstructive lung disease (GOLD; NHLBI/WHO, [[1998]] 2001), the effect of steroids on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a little and therefore its use is not recommended well. Thus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchial asthma have different responses to drugs.